

ESTABLISHED IN 1861

AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

THE OLDEST BEE-PAPER IN AMERICA

DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE INTERESTS OF HONEY PRODUCERS

35th Year.

CHICAGO, ILL., DEC. 12, 1895.

No. 50.

Contributed Articles.

On Important Apilarian Subjects.

Large Hives ; Size and Shape of Hives ; and Conditions Necessary to Safe Wintering of Bees.

BY CHAS. DADANT.

The great fecundity of the queen-bees, and the aptitude of worker-bees to amass provisions for times of scarcity, are the two main qualities that have induced man to add the honey-bee to the number of animals domesticated by him. Others among the insects harvest honey, but owing to the lack of these two qualities none gather together such large amounts of it.

But to take full advantage of these two most important qualities, which thus place the bee above all other honey-gathering insects, it is, before all, indispensable to furnish those precious insects lodgings which may enable the queen to utilize her fecundity, while, at the same time, furnishing to the bees a convenient storage-room, not only for the needed stores required for their sustenance during the unfavorable parts of the year, but also to secure a surplus to their owner; at the same time this shelter must prove commodious and sufficient to protect them against the inclemency of the weather, in the winter. I here propose to consider both the size and shape of the hive, and the conditions necessary for a safe wintering of the bees; these two questions being intimately connected with each other.

How many eggs is a queen able to lay during the height of the breeding-season, in spring? We will all agree that this breeding-season begins more or less early, and lasts more or less according to the weather and other circumstances in different localities. I believe also that the bee-keepers have generally recognized the fact that some queens are prolific enough to lay as many as 4,000 or 5,000 eggs in 24 hours. I have often seen, in observatory hives—when there was plenty of room, and the queen did not have to hunt about for cells—a queen lay six eggs in a minute. Other observers agree with me in this; those at least who have taken the pains to investigate this question. And here let me say that there are too few men who take the trouble to investigate for themselves. An observatory hive—a real one, with only one comb, with two sides of glass, so fixed that nothing can escape the eyes of the apiarist—is but a small expense, and will prove a source of great pleasure and of endless instruction; for many things yet remain to be learned of the natural history of the bee.

To return to my subject: Six eggs laid in one minute by the queen would, at the same rate of speed, give 360 eggs in one hour, or 4,320 eggs in 12 hours; allowing one-half of the 24 hours for rest. It is true that the time given may not be always well occupied by the queen, and that she is probably often delayed by some irregularity of the combs in which she lays in a circular way, or by her coming across spots occupied with pollen or honey, when she will then drop her eggs wherever she happens to be, proving evidently that, at the breeding-season, she must lay without intermission, and that this laying is independent of her will. If we suppose that her laying is thus hindered, so that one-eighth of the above-mentioned time be lost in this way, she is still able to lay 3,780 eggs in this space of 12 hours.

Dr. Angelo Dubini, who ranks among the first of the bee-masters of the world, and whose writings on bees are well known, wrote as follows, in *L'Apicolatore*, of Milan, Italy, in the November number:

"How do we verify the assertions of the apilarian writers who hold that the queen, at the proper time, may deposit 3,000 eggs, or more, in the combs in 24 hours? I have examined a hive, and have ascertained that all the cells were occupied with brood, eggs, or honey. Then, in the middle of these combs of brood, I have inserted an empty comb made of worker-cells, and fresh and clean. I found, on the morrow, that all the cells, or about all of them, were occupied with newly-laid eggs. I figured that this comb contained 4,250 cells; since it measured 5 square decimeters, and since each square decimeter contains 850 worker-cells."

Taking the number mentioned above, of 3,780 eggs, as the very probable laying capacity of a good queen, for every 24 hours in the breeding-season, this will give us a requirement of nearly 80,000 cells, just for brood, since it takes 21 days for each egg to mature into a perfect bee. In this we do not figure the space occupied by drone-combs, which take much more space than worker-combs, since 18 drone-cells occupy the same surface as 27 worker-cells.

As each square inch of comb contains about 54 cells (worker-cells), the queen will need, for her three weeks' laying, nearly 1,500 square inches of comb, which would necessitate—

For the Langstroth-Simplicity hive, 10 frames.

For the Gallup hive, 12 frames.

For the American hive, 10 frames.

For the Quinby (old style), 8 frames.

I will call your attention to this, that we have figured no room whatever for the supplies of honey and pollen, which are most indispensable to bees for their daily needs. In a hive overflowing with bees and brood, this is most important; for they must be able to go through a few rainy days, or of changeable weather, even at the opening of the spring, when the crop is expected soon to commence, without having to stint, with their fast-hatching crowds—the hope and pride of the opening season. As well might a farmer expect to raise a large crop of corn without saving enough to feed the horses that help tend and plow the field. Between one-fourth and one-fifth of the entire space is often taken up by these supplies.

I know that no one question has raised as many discussions between apiarists as the determining of the room needed in the breeding apartment, and the necessity of furnishing the queen with all the space that she may be able to occupy with her eggs; but I have often noticed that those who have opposed the large hives in the discussions, have not sufficiently investigated the matter; since most of them have never tried anything larger than the 10-frame Langstroth hive. For us it is too small, but they thought it too big, and reduced it to 8 frames, which some even speak of reducing to 6. Gentlemen, you are going in the wrong direction; try the other route.

The 8-frame hive, if we deduct only one comb for the provisions, contains room for only 51,000 worker-cells, or 2,400 eggs per day, and if we allow what ought to be given—two combs for the provisions, pollen and honey—we have but 2,000 cells left for each day's laying, not taking into consideration yet the fact that a part of this space is occupied with drone-comb, which, being larger, still reduces the number of

cells the queen has at her disposal. This is less than half of the quantity actually counted by Dublin as one day's laying.

A German bee-keeper, who favors small hives, wrote not long ago, that the queens, after having laid eggs for about two weeks, are in the habit of resting five to six days at a time. He had noticed this several times. This fact is easily explained in small hives; the queen stops because she finds herself short of empty cells. In fact, it often happens, early in the spring (in April at this latitude), that the laying is very much retarded by cold weather, sometimes almost entirely stopped, because the bees are unable to go out in search of pollen or of water, which they need in quantity, water never being stored ahead. The queen is fed more sparingly; the oldest larvae hatch out readily, making room for more egg-laying. Thus when the bad weather is at an end, the bees beginning to open their buds, the queen's egg-laying recommences with great energy. The queen has soon caught up—filled all the empty cells—she is then forced to wait until the first eggs laid at the close of the bad weather have hatched out. Thanks to our large hives, we have never had a chance to notice such an interruption in the laying, during good weather, in the busy laying season.

It is only since I came to the United States that I have been able to appreciate the large hives. Although having experienced a great liking for bees ever since I was a child, as the hives which they used then were the old style of straw skeps, none of these were large enough to give me the least suspicion that there might be some profit in aggrandizing them, except with supers for harvesting the crop. My attention was called to this subject about 32 years ago, after my arrival in America. One of my countrymen, whom I visited on my landing in Illinois, had seven box-hives in a corner of his yard.

One of those hives was a huge box, made with boards, 18 inches in diameter, and two feet high. The hive was so old that the sap-wood had rotted out, and one could see the combs along one side, from top to bottom. This hive had contained bees, they told me, for over 20 years, had swarmed but little, and was still inhabited by the descendant of the first swarm that had been hived in it. Its population had always wintered successfully, in spite of the crack I have mentioned, which, in the later years, had exposed the bees to the cold, and yet smaller colonies had been hived and had died by its side for a number of years. This convinced me—as it would have convinced most of my readers—that bees, in this climate, winter better in large hives than in small ones. The old age of its combs also convinced me that the French idea, that combs five or six years old are worthless, was a great delusion. Thanks to Progress, the French have gotten over this delusion as thoroughly as our American bee-keepers, and they are also bravely getting over that other delusion, that small hives are best.

Hamilton, Ill.

(To be continued.)



Does a Poor Yield Imply Overstocking?

BY F. L. THOMPSON.

I wish Dr. Miller, in one of his future "Thinks," would tell us how he knows when there is a poor yield; that the season is not almost wholly responsible for it instead of the number of bees in the locality. If he can give instances of overstocking in average localities in seasons of a good flow of nectar, he has a good case; but if overstocking is generally complained of in poor seasons, does not that tend to show that the flowers rather than the bees are to blame? I believe Mr. Carlsen's locality is overstocked, for any one going through and around Montclair would see very few blossoms. But his locality is exceptional. In an average locality, in a poor season, the blossoms themselves are out in full force. It is the nectar that is scanty. In a good season there may be no more blossoms to visit than in a poor one. Isn't there something shaky about the idea that the bees crowd one another on the blossoms more in a poor season than in a good one? At any rate, my experience, as given in my former article, is confirmed by an item quoted with approval by Mr. Heddon from Mr. James M. Martin, in the Bee-Keepers' Review for 1891, page 326; "When the season is poor for 200 colonies, it is poor for four, and when good for 200, it is good for 600, all in one yard."

As to the "uncertain tenure by which the bee-keeper holds his ground," that depends upon the assumption that a poor season would be a good one if fewer colonies were kept, which does not seem to be proven. It doesn't worry me, anyhow. If poor seasons are made worse, and good ones poor, by overstocking, the non-specialists and side-issue farmers

will give up the field in disgust long before the specialists cease to make money with their plans of utilizing or preventing swarming, and the time and ability to carry them out. The evil will cure itself. Last season I kept exact account of the proceeds in cash of a lot of 15 colonies, whose swarms were returned by Mr. Lyman's plan—(Vol. 34, page 211). They averaged \$2.56 net. Another lot, which for reasons which need not be mentioned had to be managed in the old way—old colonies not removed, second swarms allowed, etc.—netted less than a dollar apiece, value of swarms included. Both lots were in the same yard, and under the same conditions. But what farmer would want to bother himself by doing things just exactly at the right time? (!)

I do not wish to be understood as favoring excessive competition, in "coming parous near saying the bee-keeper needn't pay any attention to the warning after he has once started in with a few colonies." "Competition is the life of trade," and, "There is always room on top," are both maxims which at times are misleading, if not unjust, to the 90 per cent., who fail in business. But I do say that the non-specialist should yield first. At present, there seems to be little danger of more crowding in the honey-business than in any other, by specialists, who should not be unjustly discriminated by law in favor of those who have other resources to fall back on. A specialist, moreover, will not be likely to make much trouble in overstocking, just because he understands his business. He knows that if he should do so, his actions would recoil against himself. The numerous small bee-keepers would be the ones mainly responsible for overstocking, just as they are for foul brood.

Arvada, Colo.



What Dr. Miller Thinks.

AMALGAMATION.—I don't know whether it will do any good to discuss the proposed Constitution, published on page 757. It can probably be voted upon by the Bee-Keepers' Union only in the form given, as there isn't time to make any changes. It's a good deal easier to find fault than to propose the remedy, nevertheless for the sake of the future it may be well to heed the editor's hint as to "suggestions and discussion."

Article I, provides that notice of annual meetings be given in the bee-papers and also mailed to members. Isn't it unnecessary expense to mail notice of a thing published in the bee-papers?

There is lack of specific mention as to when and where the annual election is to be held, only the officers are to be "elected by ballot," the ballots "printed and mailed by Dec. 1," "and the polls shall close on the last day of December." Putting those items together, and remembering what has been the practice in the Union, the supposition is that the ballots are to be sent to the Secretary. Very decidedly that's objectionable. Indeed, that sort of voting can hardly be called voting by ballot, for one of the objects of the ballot is to secure "secrecy and liberty." Certainly, there's no secrecy, and the average voter will not feel the same degree of liberty when he sends an open vote to one of the officers to be elected. I think it's hardly necessary to argue the matter; and any one can see the objection. The remedy is another matter.

Article IV provides that an extra assessment may be made each year. I think the Bee-Keepers' Union never felt a necessity for anything of the kind, and I believe the necessity is much less now than formerly. Why keep out members by putting in such a thing?

Provision was made in the Bee-Keepers' Union against receiving members who should come into the society after getting into trouble about their bees, and it was a wise provision. No insurance company would insure a building after it had burned down, and then pay for its loss. Is no safeguard of the kind needed for the new organization?

I am bound to say that the Constitution seems to be much more objectionable than when I first read it over, and it is very unfortunate, to put it mildly, that the committee appointed Sept. 6 should have made their report so as to see the light not till 12 weeks later, with no possible opportunity for amendment or effective discussion before being voted on. [See page 797.—EDITOR.]

AGE OF BEES.—G. W. Demaree thinks the bees which refused to rear or accept a queen could not have done so because "too old," because many a queenless colony in spring had acted all right. (See page 758.) Those queenless bees in spring had outlived by several weeks the stubborn ones, and yet in one sense they were younger, for a bee is understood by many to grow old only as it becomes old through labor. Any-

way, the stubborn bees would probably have been all right if they'd been taken younger.

SOCIALISM IN BEES.—That case wherein the last drop of honey was divided among the whole colony, mentioned by Mr. Demaree on page 758, is a very striking one, and I think it is the regular thing in all cases of starvation—certainly in all that ever I observed. I think there is one exception, however, as to perfect equality. The queen seems to have a little bigger share than the others, for she's always one of the last to succumb.

A BAD BREAK.—Quite refreshing it is to read on page 760 about that \$471,000 to be reached in the short space of 10 years, to say nothing about the odd \$40, but it is too bad that in an article so solid and thoroughly reliable throughout, our Learned friend should have made the statement that bees get honey from willow-buds. Such a statement is utterly misleading, and may cause untold disappointment in the minds of some who find the willows covered with buds, but no honey therefrom. Mr. Learned would find out, if he took the trouble to investigate, that willow blossoms and not buds supply nectar. Too bad that such a solid article should be marred by such "a bad break."

CHICAGO HONEY PRICES.—The editor says on page 764, "It seems to me that the actual wholesale selling prices of honey on the very day the dealer quotes should be given." On the next page the editor speaks of 10 per cent. commission. I think 5 per cent. is the usual commission on sales of honey in Chicago. Are there exceptions? And if so, on what grounds do any charge twice as much as common?

THE FIRST VOLUME.—Of late I see occasional quotations in these pages from the American Bee Journal for 1861. That's wise. What a mine of wealth that volume seemed 34 years ago. And to this day I refer to that volume oftener than to any other.

LATE EXTRACTING.—Referring to page 771, Mr. Bevins has my gracious permission to lick the extracting-knife as often as he pleases, provided it be washed off before being used again; but in the name of all that's reasonable, what business has he using an uncapping-knife in November?

THE CHICAGO HONEY MARKET.—A correspondent has been looking up the Chicago markets, and finds honey, both comb and extracted, offered at one of the leading department stores at 20 cents; the honey bearing the label of a firm which quotes in the honey column of this Journal extracted at 6 to 7 cents, and comb at 13 to 15 cents. He thinks beekeepers should be warned against such robbery. I confess I don't know enough to decide just what is the right thing in such matters. There are so many stand-points from which to look. The consumer, while sitting at the breakfast-table enjoying the nice tumbler of extracted honey for which he has paid 20 cents, looking over his morning paper sees extracted honey quoted at 6 to 7 cents. He says at once: "That grocer has charged me three prices for that honey. It's sheer robbery. At the outside he ought not to have charged me more than 10 cents, and that would have given him 50 per cent. profit—enough profit for any business?"

The producer who happens to see the honey sold at 20 cents, says: "Twenty cents is none too much for such honey as that. But the man who paid me only 7 cents for it just robbed me of about 13 cents."

The dealer says: "I ought to be able to sell that honey for more, but other stores sell at that, and so I can't go above 20. You see when I pay 7 cents for a pound of honey, and 5 cents for the package, that makes it 12 cents. Then when I pay for having a man to put it up and label it, that brings it up to about 14; and when I've paid my rent and other expenses I can hardly make a living selling it at 20. I declare, I must see if I can't buy at less price, for its robbery to pay 7 cents."

Now I might go on theorizing about how the thing should be, but I'll leave that for others. As a producer, I feel like saying: "In view of the real value of honey, and comparing it with butter, it seems the consumer can afford to pay 20 cents; but I'd like the thing managed in some way to get as large a slice as possible out of the 20." How shall it be managed? Here's a fair subject for discussion. Who will turn on the light? Perhaps the most unprejudiced view might be given by those who are both producers and dealers.

FOUL BROOD.—A bee-keeper raises the question whether there may not be danger in attempting the cure of foul brood

as given on page 591, in view of the fact that the instruction is to feed the diseased colony at a time when "the bees have no other sources," and that this is one of the conditions absolutely essential to success. The thought is that there would be great danger of spreading the disease by such feeding, and there seems ground for fear, from the fact that the diseased colonies are weakened by the disease, and poorly able to defend themselves, and that there is always some danger of starting robbing by feeding a weak colony, that danger being very greatly intensified by having the feeding take place at a time when the bees have no other resources. The owner of the bees, however, might argue thus: "Better that others should suffer a little inconvenience than that I should suffer a great loss. If this is a sure and easy cure, I want to apply it to my colonies, and if the disease does become spread in all directions thereby, it will be but little trouble for others to cure their bees as I have mine."

I confess to a depth of ignorance as to any personal knowledge of foul brood, and would like to know what those who are familiar with it have to say, especially such men as Mr. McEvoy and Dr. Howard. Marengo, Ill.



A Building for Wintering Bees.

BY L. M. WILLIS.

I have just read Dr. Miller's reply to R. R., on page 729, in regard to wintering bees in a building not frost-proof. It strikes me that this is just the place for me to chime in and give my way of wintering bees. My building is like unto two boxes, the inner one 12 inches smaller all around except the bottom, than the outside one, which is common rough lumber built like all balloon frame buildings—the one thickness of boards have battens over the cracks; the roof is shingled; one thickness of jointed boards comprise the floor for both; and the inner part has a flat roof of one-inch rough boards.

I put four inches of chaff on the floor, and fill the 12-inch space with the same. The inner walls are covered with building-paper. I nail strips of fencing to pieces of 2x4 scantling, set edgewise, and upon these strips I set the hives as close as I can. When it gets too cold for bees to remain out-doors, I take one hive at a time and draw it to this building, upon a hand-sled, if we have snow or not. I remove the cover and place a piece of gunny-sack directly over the frames; upon this I put a shallow super with pattern-slats left in; I fill the super with chaff. Across the super I put a piece of lath at each end; upon the pieces of lath I put another hive, and tier up three or four deep, and put the cover on the last hive, with lath under it. This gives space for the steam to pass out, but doesn't let much cold in. I leave the bottom-boards on, but leave the entrance open. The entrance to my hives are $\frac{3}{4}$ x 12 inches.

When my bees are all in, I shut the door, which is filled like the wall space. I have a 4-inch vent in the roof of the inner box, which opens into the outside room.

I have wintered bees in this house, and had them in fine condition each spring, without any loss worth mentioning. I have lowered a thermometer down through the ventilator when the mercury showed 6° below zero in the place where the bees were; at that time it was 42° below zero out-of-doors. I have frequently tested it, and found it to show almost a zero temperature.

My bees are always well supplied with stores, and strong in bees when put into winter quarters.

Now, I expect to see some doubts expressed in print, on this style of wintering, but I think I can show hives as free from mold and dead bees in the spring as any one. When I put the bees out in the spring I close the entrance to 3 inches, and leave the super and chaff just as it was, except that I put the cover on tight. My bees are out-doors yet.

Loyal, Wis., Nov. 18.



Report of the California State Convention.

BY J. H. MARTIN.

November 18, 2 p.m., found Pres. Cook in the chair, and a fair attendance at the meeting of the California State Beekeepers' Association in Los Angeles.

This meeting proposed to devote much of its time to the subject of marketing honey. The discussion upon methods of marketing started off lively. The Los Angeles County Beekeepers' Association presented the plan of selling the product of that county through one firm, and Mr. Edwards, of the firm

selected, stated his plans. The method seemed very good, but did not seem broad enough to satisfy the members of the State Association, and after a full discussion a committee of five was appointed to draw up future plans.

In their report they recommended plans similar to those adopted by the citrus fruit producers. This report was unanimously adopted, and it was voted to work under the name of THE CALIFORNIA HONEY EXCHANGE. The same committee was re-appointed to work for the perfection of the new organization.

PLANTS FOR HONEY.

This vital question being disposed of for the present, Prof. Cook introduced the subject of "Plants for Honey." The gum-tree, or eucalyptus, produces much honey, and Mr. Abbott Kinney, an expert, gave an interesting talk upon the various species. There are 150 varieties of this tree. Several species are especially rich in nectar, and the bloom opens all the way from October to March, and at a time in the year when bees get but little honey from other sources. The species, *Robusta*, *Ficifolia* and *Eugensitas*, are especially rich in nectar.

The pepper tree came in for unfavorable comment, for it is claimed that the tree gives a dark, peppery-flavored honey. The fact was brought out that the bee works upon the berry as well as the blossom.

Alfalfa was highly recommended as a great addition to our honey-flora, but ranchers have a pernicious way of mowing it just as it is coming into bloom. The only way to receive benefit from it is a greater acreage and a dairying community.

Mr. J. S. Harbison—the father of California bee-keeping—sent an essay, which advocated independent action in the marketing of honey, and through co-operative plans. Mr. Harbison thinks that the industry has been reduced fully 75 per cent. within the past 15 years, owing to the clearing up of lands for settlement, low prices, and excessive freight-rates. But he thinks by united action it can be restored; and in relation to our honey he uses these words:

"It is safe to say that no product of soil or water, whether fish, flesh or fowl, or that of fruits in all the varied forms in which they are marketed, is sold at so low a price relatively to excellence as is that of our high grades of California honey!"

Mr. Harbison holds that our water-white honey—the product of the different varieties of sages—has no superior in any country, and should sell for full 50 per cent. more than it has for the past few years.

The new bee-disease—paralysis—and foul brood were discussed. The new disease seemed to be more prevalent near the coast than in the interior.

Among the several resolutions introduced was one of sympathy with the bereaved family of the Rev. L. L. Langstroth; and another to the effect that California bee-keepers were in accord with any movement that might be inaugurated for the placing of a suitable monument over the last resting-place of Mr. Langstroth.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Prof. Cook, re-elected President; J. H. Martin, Secretary; H. E. Wilder, Treasurer; and Vice-Presidents were elected for the six southern counties.

The convention then adjourned.
Bloomington, Calif.

J. H. MARTIN, Sec.

P. S.—The Secretary wishes to add to this report that it will be to the interest of every reader of the American Bee Journal in California, who does not receive our annual notices, to send to me his or her address, with the addresses of neighboring bee-keepers. I wish to keep every bee-keeper on this Coast posted in relation to the "California Honey Exchange."

To our surprise, Mr. Jacob Alpaugh, of Ontario, Canada, came into our meeting, followed by his whole family.

Mr. Gemmill next.

The committee upon organization expect it will take some time to organize, but they are in it to stay until success is assured.

J. H. M.

Earn Your Own Subscription.—Any present subscriber can earn his or her own subscription to the American Bee Journal for one year by sending *three new subscribers*, with \$3.00. A copy of "Bees and Honey" will also be mailed to each new subscriber, and the Bee Journal will be sent to the new readers from the time the order is received up to the end of 1896. This is an easy way to earn your own subscription and at the same time help to circulate the Bee Journal. Remember, getting 3 new subscribers pays for your own subscription for 1 year! Of course, no other premium will be sent in addition. This is a straight offer by itself.

Southern Department.

CONDUCTED BY

DR. J. P. H. BROWN, AUGUSTA, GA.

[Please send all questions relating to bee-keeping in the South direct to Dr. Brown, and he will answer in this department.—Ed.]

The Cotton-Bloom a Non-Producer of Honey.

DR. BROWN:—Mr. J. J. Keith has shown me a communication to you, in which he expresses the opinion that the cotton-plant is not a honey-producer; and also several other letters, all of whom, I think, hold a different opinion. He seems to be getting lonely, and wants some one to keep him company, and at his suggestion I write to say that I agree with him entirely, so far as this section of country is concerned. I can't, of course, say what may or may not be the case elsewhere.

Cotton is the chief product here. Within a radius of three miles (which we are told is within the limit of a bee's flight) there are many hundreds of acres of land planted in cotton every year. Cotton begins to bloom here about the middle of June, and blooms continuously, unless checked by a drouth, until the first killing frost, which is usually about the end of October. I have been keeping bees for over 20 years, and in all those years I do not think I have ever taken a pound of surplus honey after the middle of June, and I would certainly have taken it if there had been any.

Bees will gather honey wherever it is to be found, and if cotton blooms, or any part of the cotton-plant afforded it, they would certainly lay up abundant stores during the months of June, July, August and September, but in my experience they do not; and Mr. Keith tells me his experience is the same.

Louisville, Ga.

M. H. HOPKINS.

Hard Year—Crimson Clover.

DR. BROWN:—I have been in the bee-business for some time. 1895 has been the hardest year for me—about six pounds per colony covers my crop.

I see crimson clover spoken of for its value as a honey-plant. I wish to know where I can buy the seed.

Cedar Creek, Tex.

T. V. DICKSON.

ANSWER.—Crimson clover seed is for sale by all first-class seedsmen. It would be to the interest of those having the seed for sale to advertise in the American Bee Journal.

A Texas Report—Cotton-Bloom.

DR. BROWN:—This is my second year with bees. They have stored only about 10 pounds of surplus honey this year per colony. I have 23 colonies of hybrids and blacks in movable-frame hives. I make my own hives and supplies, except sections. I have made some effort to Italianize my apiary, but owing to so many native bees in the neighborhood, I failed to get my queens purely mated.

We have had four light flows of honey this year, which kept the bees up all right. First, the fruit-bloom started them off nicely. Second, a honey-dew that they gathered some surplus from—a dark honey and sugar. Third, the linden, which the bees could not gather much from, owing to a continued rain all through the flow. Now they are gathering bitter honey, as they did last fall, from the bitterweeds.

One might think from the article on page 713, that cotton yielded a good honey-flow every year all over this State; but not a pound have I gotten in two years, while in this same county (Van Zandt), twenty-five miles west, my neighbor's bees got rich from it. Why doesn't cotton yield honey everywhere alike?

Edom, Tex., Nov. 14.

S. P. BREWER.

ANSWER.—In answer to your question, "Why don't cotton yield honey everywhere alike?" I may ask, why are not the crops of cotton, corn, oats, potatoes, etc., alike in all parts of the same county? It is not alike, for the soil, amount of rainfall, and atmospheric and electrical conditions are not alike.

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Canadian Beedom.

Apiarist and Bee-Keeper.

On page 759, Dr. Miller questions whether there is any well-grounded distinction between these two terms. He says "the dictionary" defines "apiarist" as a "bee-keeper," and wishes the "gentleman across the line" to tell us where he gets his definition for "apiarist." The reply is, from "the dictionary," i. e., from *my* dictionary, which defines an "apiarist" as "one who keeps an apiary." An apiary means more than one or two forlorn bee-hives run by the rule of thumb, which is all many can show who must, I suppose, be called "bee-keepers," because they keep bees. "One who keeps an apiary," be it large or small, must be supposed to have a kind of establishment comprising, besides his colonies of bees, a lot of "fixins," such as supers, section-boxes, extractor, escapes, queen-cages, nucleus boxes, uncapping-knife, smoker, veil, possibly gloves, and if he clips his queens' wings, as the Doctor does, a delicate pair of scissors. The possession of these and various other appurtenances implies knowledge and skill in the use of them. I suppose "the dictionary," which means, in the Doctor's case, *his* dictionary and in my case *mine*, is very like "my doxy" and "your doxy," as a definition of orthodoxy and heterodoxy.

But I think the Doctor will agree with me that in the nomenclature of bee-culture we need a term that expresses more than the bare fact of keeping bees. If "apiarist" is not satisfactory, how would "apiologist" do? That means "a student of bees." Most assuredly, there is many a bee-keeper who cannot be properly styled "a student of bees." The necessity for some such distinction is constantly making itself apparent. For example, we find those who consider themselves masters of the pursuit in the habit of saying of this and that man, of whose abilities they have an indifferent opinion, "He is no bee-keeper." Perhaps the person spoken of has 50 hives of bees or more. If he has a solitary colony, he is a bee-keeper, so that the assertion made concerning him, is, in the literal meaning of it, a libel and a falsehood. Of course it is easy to use a qualifying adjective—e. g., "he is a good bee-keeper," or "he is a poor bee-keeper," but still a single word that conveys the idea of a man being more or less skilled in keeping bees, would seem to be convenient, if not necessary.

The North American Bee-Keepers' Union.

The American Bee Journal of Nov. 28 contains the Report of the Amalgamation Committee appointed at the Toronto Convention to arrange the terms of union between the North American Bee-Keepers' Association and the National Bee-Keepers' Union. So far as the first-named organization is concerned, the action of the Committee appears to be final, said Committee having been appointed to "arrange the terms with full power to perfect the same." The only question remaining to be settled is whether the members of the National Bee-Keepers' Union accept the overture made them. This they will undoubtedly do, because it is a case of absorption, since nothing whatever remains of the other body save the one feature of an annual meeting.

The object of the North American was to promote the general interests of the pursuit of bee-culture, mainly by the discussion of apiarian topics for mutual improvement. The object of the Union was to defend the rights of bee-keepers against aggression. I quite expected that these two objects would be blended in the amalgamation scheme. Instead of this, the distinctive object of the North American Bee-Keepers' Association is dropped altogether, and only that of the Union retained. It would have been easy to have consolidated the two articles relating to the objects of the two organizations, in some such way as the following:

OBJECTS.

Its objects shall be to protect the interests of its members, to defend their rights, to form a bond of union for mutual protection, and to promote the general interests of the pursuit of bee-culture throughout North America.

Why this was not done is best known to the Committee.

There is also a conspicuous indefiniteness as to what interests of members are to be protected. Probably it will be said that their apicultural interests would be understood to be those intended, but it would have been better to have had the

fact stated. Three times over, defence of rights and mutual protection are stated, surely the nature of the rights adverted to might have been mentioned once.

But what most concerns Canadian beedom, is the entire absence of all recognition of Canada, except so far as it is part of North America. In this respect it is only on a parallel with Mexico. The constitution of the old Association distinctly said: "This organization shall be known as 'The North American Bee-Keepers' Association,' and shall include in its territory all of the United States and Canada." All this has been struck out. There were three Canadians on the Committee who do not appear to have objected to their country being dropped in silence. They will have a chance to explain and defend themselves at the annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association, in January.

The amalgamation scheme had, and has, no warmer friend and well-wisher than the writer of these lines. He sincerely regrets that he cannot speak more approvingly of the work of the Committee. The object aimed at—union, is good—excellent; but the splice might certainly have been made in a better and more artistic manner. The "high contracting parties" have not distinguished themselves by any large amount of diplomatic skill, constructive ability, or even-handed justice. Perhaps it is not too late to supply the omissions and remedy the defects which have been pointed out.

So much as has been said appeared to be demanded in duty to Canadian beedom.—[See page 797.—EDITOR.]

Evolution of Queen-Bees—Clipping Wings.

On page 747, Mr. Allen Pringle discusses my argument in opposition to the clipping of queen-bees. He approves of it so far as relates to the evolution of queens, but objects when their original creation is adverted to. I am amazed at his assertion that Evolution and Creation are opposing philosophies, for surely he is well sware that many of the best scientific authorities hold firmly to both. I think it was the eminent botanist, Dr. Asa Gray, who first pointed out that there was no necessary conflict between Creation and Evolution; that, in fact, Evolution was one of the most important laws of Creation.

Mr. Pringle dogmatically asserts that I cannot hold the two philosophies of Evolution and Creation. I don't consider them two philosophies. If they can be so properly regarded, then I firmly believe them both. I do not know by what right he assumes to grant me permission to have my choice of the two systems, but refuses to permit me to cling to both. It is, perhaps, because to his mind it seems impossible to hold both. But no such apparent impossibility troubles me. To me they seem entirely harmonious, and the one the natural and necessary counterpart of the other.

When man began to develop the queen-bee, flight was one of her essential functions. I call it an essential function because she had to transmit it to her progeny, or they would be useless for the main purpose of their existence, namely, to gather nectar and convey it to the hive. The "fine point" of my argument is this: That if the queen, by being deprived of her wings, comes under the operation of that law of Nature by virtue of which disuse of wings leads to deterioration, and finally extirpation of them, it may be that serious injury may be caused by the process of clipping.

So far as the *reductio ad absurdum* is concerned, I do not see that the cases cited are parallel. The dehorned stock are not unfitted for reproducing their kind by being deprived of their horns. If the horns should grow "small by degrees and beautifully less," it would be no detriment to the cattle tribes, but rather an advantage, at least in the eyes of those who go to so much trouble and expense in getting rid of them. The use of the knife on young male animals is merely carrying out Nature's law of the survival of the fittest. These inferior males are not permitted to reproduce their kind, because of unfitness for the exercise of the function. There is nothing in the idea of the creation of the "scrub" or the "crab" to imply that these crude forms are the best and cannot be improved upon, and it must be borne in mind that the means by which the "splendid Durham" and other breeds are produced, do not involve the extirpation of any function whatever, but only by selection of the best types the effort is made to secure the highest development possible of already existing and essential functions.

I have said that I not only consider Evolution and Creation harmonious, but as the necessary counterparts of each other. To conceive of Evolution without Creation is to provide no means of effecting improvement, for whence came the tendency to evolve and the power to do so? To conceive of

Creation without Evolution is to necessitate fixity of type. Perhaps this is what Mr. Pringle means by "special creation." As I understand the matter, I see no need whatever for the word "special" in this connection.

The discovery of the law of Evolution was a most valuable one. There was some hesitation about its general acceptance, because it was proclaimed to be irreconcilable with the idea of Creation. When the truths of geology were first enunciated, they were supposed to conflict with Bible teaching, but Genesis and Geology were reconciled long ago. We are going through a similar process now in regard to evolution. Evolution is still opposed by many who suppose that it is at variance with the Bible, and there is too much reason to fear it is accepted by many because it enables them to dispense with a Creator. To my mind, the idea of a Creator is indispensable to account for the executive power which is behind all Nature's laws, this of evolution among the rest. I cannot conceive of law enforcing itself. That which sceptical scientists call Force, is but another name for the Unseen Power which believers in a Divine Being call "God."

[First thing we know, this queen-clipping discussion will evolve into one on religious beliefs, etc. Probably no better place than this will be found to "clip" off the discussion. I think nearly all will agree that sufficient has been said thereon for the present.—EDITOR.]

Questions AND Answers.

CONDUCTED BY

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.

[Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal, or to Dr. Miller direct.]

Locating an Apiary Near a Railroad.

Would it be good policy to locate an apiary close to a railroad, say 75 or 80 feet away? I. C.
Monticello, Ind.

ANSWER.—The main question, I suppose, is whether the jarring would disturb the bees in winter. I have read of one or more cases, but I don't know where to refer to them, and I can't say positively what was reported as to the result. My impression is that no harm came from the jarring, but I may be wrong about it. Perhaps some one who is situated near a railroad may be able to tell us about it.

Using Old Foundation.

As this has been a poor year for honey, I have some foundation left. If I should warm it thoroughly next spring, before using it, would it bring back the natural smell so the bees would work on it as well as new foundation? O. H.

ANSWER.—I have several thousand sections filled with foundation that I hope to use next year, and from the experience of the past I've no anxiety about the bees using it, and I shall not warm it or do anything with it, only just put it on the same as fresh. Some of the sections will be four or five years old, and none of them less than two years old. Fresh foundation is a little better, but I never could see such a great deal of difference. If the foundation was left on late in the season without being used, and the bees varnished it with propolis, then they'll not like to use it, but warming it will not help any.

Esparet or Sainfoin—Kraimer or Carniolan.

1. What is the English name for esparet? In a former number of the Leipziger Bienen Zeitung, I find it highly recommended for bee-pasturage. Have you had any experience with it?

2. Are the "Kraimer bienen" the same as our Carniolans? I am asking for the foregoing information because, judging from some of your writings in the American Bee Journal, I think you are a German. Should I be mistaken, then of course I can't expect that you can give me the information wanted. H. C.

ANSWERS.—1. It isn't necessary, as you suppose, to be a German to be able to answer your questions, although I do

happen to know something of that language. If you will turn to the word "esparcet" in the Standard dictionary, you will find it is sainfoin, the botanical name being *Onobrychis sativa*. Then turning to "sainfoin," which is really French (but the name in common use in America and England), you will find it is "An Old World perennial clover-like herb of the bean family, with odd-pinnate leaves and elongated spikes of variegated flowers, cultivated extensively in Europe for forage." It is also known in England as "cockshead." I know nothing about it personally, and I think it is little known in this country.

2. Kraimer and Carniolan are the same.

Rearing Queens—Golden vs. Leather-Colored Bees.

1. I would like to rear a few queens next season for my own use. Could I take the old colony and divide, say in two or three nuclei after the first swarm issued? There always seems to be plenty of queen-cells. What would be the best way to do it?

2. Which do you think are the best bees, the golden or the leather-colored?

I should have said in the first question that we do not have any fall flow of honey here. H. G.

Olympia, Wash.

ANSWERS.—1. Yes, there need be no great difficulty in the matter. Just put the contents of the parent colony into two or three hives after hiving the swarm on the old stand, dividing the brood and bees, and making sure that at least one good queen-cell—preferably a sealed one—is in each hive. But you must feed them to have them ready for winter, and even then they may be pretty weak. Commence the feeding early.

2. There are good and poor in each, but on an average I'd risk the leather color.

Two Big Nuisances.

DR. MILLER:—As you are a good one to answer questions, please answer the following through the Bee Journal: Which is the greatest nuisance in a neighborhood—a man that will occasionally help himself to a few frames of honey, or a man that will do business under a fictitious name, and praise up a certain locality as a paradise for bee-keeping; get a few beekeepers to locate there, buy their first season's honey crop, and when asked for the money five months afterward, puts on a satanic grin and says he was never so hard up before; and has the name of beating every one that he gets a chance at? The Bible says, of two evils choose the least. Which of the two is the least, and which is the greatest nuisance?

SOUTHWESTERN TEXAS.

ANSWER.—I'm inclined to think neither one is least. They're both big nuisances. But if you insist on me applying my measuring-stick, I should say that the sneak-thief who comes in the night and gets away with a few frames of honey isn't near so big a nuisance as the other, and wouldn't make me feel half so mad every time I'd think of it. It's all the more aggravating because you suffer more loss from him than from the sneak-thief, and yet the law won't shake him by the coat-collar as it will the lesser villain. I have some doubts as to the wisdom, however, of choosing the least of two evils. I'd rather reject both. Are you sure there's any such advice in the Bible?

Liberal Book Premiums are offered on page 801, for the work of getting new subscribers to the Bee Journal. It is a fine chance to get a complete apicultural library. Think of it—40 cents' worth of books given to the one sending a new subscriber! Remember, please, that *only* present subscribers to the Bee Journal can take advantage of that offer. The publishers of the Bee Journal believe in making it an object for the old subscribers to push for new readers among their neighbors and friends, hence the generous premium offers to them. It is hoped that all may begin *now* to work. Sample copies of the Bee Journal free.

Now is the Time to work for new subscribers. Why not take advantage of the offers made on page 801?

Among the Bee-Papers

SOME "STRAY STRAWS" FROM GLEANINGS.

Hasty says in Review that "a hive needs a *visible* number on it no more than a toad needs a tail." Which makes me think, in view of the confidence I put in Bro. Hasty's judgment, that I may have underestimated a toad's need of a tail.

The editor of the American Bee-Keeper, after attending the Toronto convention, says: "Any one can find fully as much to interest him in almost any single copy of any of the bee-papers as was heard during the entire convention." Pretty poor convention that, measured by some of the bee-papers. [The editor of the American Bee-Keeper has not been at bee-conventions enough, or kept bees enough, to form a proper opinion, I suspect.—EDITOR.]

York and Hutchinson are favoring a trial of having the North American meet at the same time and place as the G. A. R. That would make low rates sure, and we can stand almost any inconvenience if we can only have railroad rates low enough. [I am with York and Hutchinson. In order to get any kind of attendance we must have it held where low rates will be secured independent of the bee-convention. This 1½-fare business, as Hutchinson says, amounts to nothing.—Ed.]

FOUNDATION WITHOUT SIDE-WALLS.

In writing about foundation there has been much stress laid upon high side-walls. Last year I experimented by making 250 sheets of brood foundation with no side-walls. I made the sheets thin, then set the rolls so as to just shape the cell-bottoms, leaving all the wax in the septum. These sheets were put in wired frames and waxed firmly to the top-bars, and I have a lot of the nicest, straightest brood-combs I ever owned, the cost being only 35 cents per hive.—B. TAYLOR, in Review.

SWEET CLOVER.

Replying to a question as to whether sweet clover yields every year, I would say that no honey-plant gives nectar every season. All of them seem to have their off-years. Yet sweet clover, so far as I can remember, yields some honey every year; in fact, it seems to be more regularly visited by the bees every season than any other plant with which I am acquainted. Yes, stock eat it; but they have to learn to like it; and when they once acquire the taste for it, they will sometimes browse it down in preference to anything else. It is a biennial. It springs up the first year, but does not yield honey until the second season, and then is visited by the bees from that time until frost, when it is killed. See fuller particulars in regard to this in the "A B C of Bee-Culture," under the heading of "Clover."—Gleanings.

THE NORTH AMERICAN AND THE UNION.

I'm looking for good to result from the action at Toronto with regard to the North American and the Bee-Keepers' Union. Rev. W. F. Clarke is right in saying the North American has always been local—at least nearly right—and it always will be mainly a local affair just so long as it is so managed that only those who attend have any inducement to become members. So far the effort has been to secure attendance, not membership. That must be entirely changed if it is ever to be anything more than a local affair. When comparing the membership of our societies with that of societies across the sea, it has been the custom to say that the great distances in our country preclude the possibility of having a large membership. That's all bosh. A man may be a member without attending; and if he doesn't attend, it's just as easy for him to become a member a thousand miles away as a hundred.

But I confess I don't understand Mr. Clarke when he says the North American has always been a "primary class of bee-keepers." I wish he would explain what he means. Is it the character of the men who have been in attendance, or is it the character of the discussions and deliberations that makes him classify it as he does? If the latter, what change would be recommended to make it "a high court or parliament of bee-keeping?"

At Toronto, Mr. Clarke said of the North American, "When we get down so that we have to pay only 25 cents a year I don't want to belong to it." Why? I think both Mr. Clarke and myself have got down so we don't have to pay even 25 cents a year. Is that any reason we do not want to belong to it?

Mr. Newman thinks nothing will kill a society sooner than an insignificant membership fee. A small fee doesn't seem to have killed the many societies in foreign lands. What

do we want of a fee larger than sufficient to pay expenses? He says: "The Bee-Keepers' Union is respected, not because it has a membership of 300 or 400, but because it has a good bank account." Part of that is true. It is respected for its bank account, and that respect is neither increased nor diminished by the fact that the amount in the bank came in large or small sums. But the intimation that numbers count for nothing is hardly correct. An organization of 1,000 receives, as a rule, more consideration than one of 100. Now, suppose the membership is increased from 300 or 400 to 600 or 800, and the membership fee cut in two, leaving the bank account the same, will not the larger membership with the same bank account have just a little more respect?—DR. MILLER, in Gleanings.

BEE-KEEPING IN NEVADA.

Mr. W. K. Ball, of Reno, Nev., came up with a carload of honey—that beautiful alfalfa that is pronounced by every one who tastes it the finest-flavored honey in the world. It is beautifully rich and thick—so thick, indeed, that it is fairly waxy. In answer to my question as to what kind of season he had had, he said it had been rather poor with him for the last two years.

"Rather poor?" said I; "and what was your average?"

"About 150 pounds, extracted."

Neighbor Chase, who stood by, turned to me with a smile, and said that, if he could average 50 pounds, to say nothing of the 100, in good years, he would be satisfied. You see, Mr. Ball depends upon alfalfa that is watered by irrigation. The problem of wet and dry seasons is one that they do not have to contend with. The amount of moisture is regulated artificially by man, and you might almost say the flow of nectar from alfalfa, lasting for three months, is regulated in the same way.

A few years ago Mr. Ball thought the locality could not be overstocked; but in later years a good bee-range there is pretty well stocked with bees already. But there are portions of Colorado (Brush, Morgan Co., for instance), so Mr. Ball tells me, that sell from \$20 to \$40 an acre, with water, that would do just as well. Here they get three cuttings of alfalfa per season. It is as fine a grain country as he ever saw.—Gleanings.

HONEY AS FOOD AND MEDICINE.

One of the most nutritious and healthful of foods is honey. It is the one sweet that never cloy, and can be eaten with impunity at all times. The markets are now flooded with the white clover honey from up the State, and the delicious California honey from the orange-blossom. Let your children eat all the bread and butter and honey they want. Give them great slices of bread covered with honey for their luncheons. It will do them good. From the time the new honey begins to come into the market until spring, I feed my children honey every day, says a mother. If they have a little cold or cough and trouble with their throats, I give them extracted honey mixed with a few drops of lemon-juice, and it proves most effectual. When they are hungry I give them a generous slice of bread and butter covered with honey, and they never get sick, as they would eating sweet-meats, jellies and jams. From long years of experience I feel justified in recommending honey as an excellent and nutritive food, not only for children, but for grown people.—National Stockman.

MUCH ROOM FOR THE BREEDING SEASON AND LESS DURING HARVEST.

Says O. O. Poppleton in Gleanings: "I have watched with some interest whatever has been written on the hive question; and will you allow me to call special attention to what is one of the most valuable points brought out as yet? As you know, I use mainly, for extracting purposes, a large single-story hive in which I can add to or take from the bees one or any number of frames at any time. The few thousands of pounds of comb honey I have taken has been mostly done by giving the bees all the combs they could use in the breeding-season; and then when giving sections I take away all combs except the 8 which contain the most brood? In my mind there is no question whatever that this method gives a larger yield of honey than if only an 8-comb hive is used, or even a 10-comb, if the 10 are kept in use all the season. My experience leads me to think that more than 10 frames during the breeding-season is preferable with most colonies, to using only 10. If I were to rig up for comb-honey producing, I would use either a 16-frame single-story hive or double 8-frame hives, cutting down in either case to the best 8 combs when putting on sections. The possible drawback to this method is that it may tend to increase swarming; but such did not seem to be the case in my experience. It would take a careful comparison of the two methods in the same apiary to determine that point."

The American Bee Journal

ESTABLISHED IN 1861
OLDEST BEE-PAPER IN AMERICA

George W. York, - - Editor.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY

GEORGE W. YORK & COMPANY,

56 Fifth Avenue,

CHICAGO, ILL.

\$1.00 a Year—Sample Copy Sent Free.

[Entered at the Post-Office at Chicago as Second-Class Mail-Matter.]

Vol. XXXV. CHICAGO, ILL., DEC. 12, 1895. No. 50.

Editorial Budget.

Mr. Bert Cook, of Otsego, Mich. (son of Prof. A. J. Cook), recently visited Gleanings. He is reported to be making a great success of farming.

Dr. Miller attended the 29th annual meeting of the Northern Illinois Horticultural Society, at Sterling, Ill., Dec. 3 and 4, of which he has been President the past year.

Mr. Byron Walker—the great Michigan honey-man—has finally arrived in Chicago for the winter, and has begun business. He will deal in strictly fine honey—both comb and extracted—wholly on a cash basis, and not on commission. Mr. Walker's own crop, this year, was some 30,000 pounds, practically all being extracted.

The Bee-Keepers' Review has been forced to be late recently, on account of the very severe and long-protracted illness of Editor Hutchinson's daughter Ivy. Were it not for the aid of his two eldest daughters in the printing office, Bro. H. says he would be almost "swamped." But now he hopes soon to be caught up, when all will be well again. Surely, he has the sympathy of every one in this trying time.

The Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union will hold its 17th annual meeting at the Ontario Agricultural College, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 12 and 13. Mr. R. F. Holtermann, the Secretary of the Union, will deliver an address on "Tests with Five-Banded Italian Bees." A very complete two-days' program is arranged, and it will pay all who can do so, to attend. Guelph is the place of meeting.

Sorting Comb Honey.—Wanting a little comb honey recently, I went to one of the commission firms here in Chicago, and selected a crate, taking it upon its appearance through the glassed end. The two exposed sections, I found upon opening the crate, were very full, nice and white, while the balance were anything but well-filled, and, besides, were not at all like the two front sections in color.

In addition to the above deception, there were two sections in which the comb was only about half filled, worth perhaps 5 cents each.

Now, when a grocer, or any one else, buys what he thinks is fancy honey, and pays a good price for it, he ought to get just what he expects and pays for. My own experience, as above given, shows that some one is not doing the square

thing. I do not know what bee-keeper crated the honey I bought, but whoever it was, he will crate, sort or grade, no more for me.

I do not think the producer of the above crate reads the Bee Journal, or he would know better than to put up a job lot of honey in the style mentioned. Unless a bee-keeper wishes his character to be judged by the way he puts up his honey, he ought to be careful. Outward appearances are very often deceptive, and yet it frequently happens that no other opportunity is offered for judging. So it behooves producers to be careful that the whole of a crate of honey shall be pretty nearly equal to the part shown through the glass. Otherwise disappointment to the purchaser, and perhaps future loss of patronage may result. Honesty and fairness should characterize all our actions—even to putting our productions upon the market.

The Chicago Convention—January 9 and 10—promises to be an interesting one. Mr. Ernest R. Root—the bee-editor of Gleanings—fully intends being here. And Dr. Miller writes thus: "I expect to be there with my whole family." That means, besides the Doctor, his good wife and Miss Emma Wilson.

Now, I wish that all who will try to attend the Chicago convention, would please let me know soon, so that I can mention it in the Bee Journal. Why not every bee-keeper who is within at least 200 miles make arrangements to come. Let it be equal in numbers to the World's Fair convention; then the interest and profit resulting will take care of themselves.

Who expects to be here Jan. 9 and 10?

See the convention notice on page 802 of this number for information as to railroad rates, etc.

"Bee-Keeping has reached a stage where not many startling inventions need be looked for"—so says Editor Hutchinson in the last Review. Also, "The really 'new and useful' things in bee-keeping now-a-days are few and far between." If such be the case, what folly it is for any to think of throwing their hard-earned money away on starting and publishing new bee-papers! In the light of past experience, a new bee-paper is about as risky a thing as any one can invest in. Probably as many as 50 of them have been started the past 30 years in North America, and nearly all of them have been compelled to give up.

Friends, please don't look this way for any encouragement in starting new bee-papers, for I really think too much of my good friends to want them to throw away their money, either in trying to publish new papers or in subscribing for them.

Please Renew Your Subscription.—We know we are making the American Bee Journal, in all respects, a better paper than ever before, and we feel that our many thousands of readers appreciate our efforts and desire to remain with us during the coming year. We ask as a special favor that all who can will send in their renewals *early*, instead of waiting until the last copy due is received, and thus save us the great rush that causes delays and mistakes just at the close of the year.

The question of renewal of subscription to the American Bee Journal may come up for consideration or discussion with some, and various reasons may be suggested against it, such as scarcity of money, an inclination to try some new paper, an idea that enough has been learned already, that it takes too much time to read, that too many papers are taken now, etc. Before deciding not to renew your subscription to the Bee Journal, ask yourself how less than two cents a week can be better expended, even if money is scarce, and if it is not

almost as certain to make or save you more than its very small cost in a whole year.

Before you decide to try some new bee-paper, or let some agent induce you to do so, get a sample copy of the proposed new paper, and give it a careful, considerate comparison with the American Bee Journal, and we will cheerfully abide by your conclusion. Neither a bee-keeper nor his family can read all the time and prosper, but in the present age of rapid improvements and rapid changes, no bee-keeper can expect to succeed without carefully reading at least one good, reliable, enterprising bee-paper. If too many papers are taken, simply give the American Bee Journal the consideration it deserves before letting it discontinue.

We ask for no charity. We appreciate and admit that the paper giving most actual value for the price, is the one that should be patronized, and clearly, on this principle, we make our plea, and with confidence in the intelligence and appreciation of our constantly growing family of readers. We have no fears as to the result. We simply promise that there shall be no weakening nor retarding tendencies in the conducting of this paper. If expenditure, thought and unremitting effort can make it better, more instructive and interesting, such it will and shall be made.

When sending your own renewal, why not also include the subscriptions of your bee-keeping neighbors, and thus earn some of the many liberal premiums we offer in the Bee Journal for getting new subscribers? Try it. You will feel better for having done both them and yourself a good turn.

Wishing you prosperity and long life, we are,

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE W. YORK & Co., Publishers.

The Central Iowa Convention, to be held Dec. 26 and 27, at Oskaloosa, ought to be well attended. The advance program contains some interesting topics, among them being these:

Is the breathing of the vapors arising from a colony of bees, while being handled, detrimental to health? Discussion.

What is the effect of bee-stings on the human system?—Hon. Eugene Secor, of Forest City.

Would it be advisable for the State to carry on an experiment apiary?—Hon. J. A. Garner, of New Sharon.

Can bee-keeping be made profitable in Iowa?—George Delong, of Beacon.

Does it pay to extract honey?—S. L. Sherman, of Oskaloosa.

What is the cause of spring dwindling?—George Briggs, of New Sharon.

Can we develop the honey-bee beyond the natural state in which we find it?—C. E. Woodworth, of Colfax.

What causes the production of nectar in flowers?—Edward Bevins, of Des Moines.

Are queens always impregnated in the air? If so, do they ever leave the hive afterwards, except with swarms?—Jos. Nysewander, of Des Moines.

Upward Ventilation.—"In the district of Altmark, in the province of Brandenburg, the hives in common use are made of straw, with the entrance for the bees placed invariably about three inches from the top. It is three inches long and half an inch high. Bees are said to winter extremely well in these hives."—American Bee Journal for 1861.

How is this for upward ventilation?

That New Constitution for the proposed North American Bee-Keepers' Union has already had some few changes made in it since it was first published on page 757. In order that the changed parts and additions may the more readily be seen, in republishing it now I have put them in italics. As now submitted, it is thus:

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

This organization shall be known as the "North American Bee-Keepers' Union," and shall hold meetings annually at such time and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors, due notice being mailed to all members at least 60 days previously, and published in the bee-periodicals of the United States and Canada.

ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

Its object shall be to protect the interests of its members, to defend their rights, and to disseminate apicultural knowledge among the people.

ARTICLE III.—OFFICERS.

SECTION 1.—The Officers of this Union shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, whose duties shall be those usually performed by such Officers. These Officers shall be the Board of Directors.

SEC. 2.—The Secretary shall be General Manager, and shall have charge of the executive work of the Union, under the advice of the Board of Directors.

SEC. 3.—The Officers shall be elected by ballot, and hold their several offices for one year, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

SEC. 4.—Nominations for Officers shall be sent to the General Manager before the first day of November in each year, who shall cause the same to be printed in the bee-periodicals—and shall be printed and mailed by Dec. 1, with the necessary Ballots, to every member who paid dues for the previous year.

SEC. 5.—The Treasurer shall furnish a bond of \$2,000 (to be approved and held by the President), for the faithful accounting of the funds of the Union, and shall pay out the funds only on vouchers signed by the President and Secretary.

SEC. 6.—The terms of office shall be for the calendar year, and the polls shall close on the last day of December.

SEC. 7.—Each annual meeting shall, by majority vote, elect a Chairman and a Recorder from those present, to preside over the meeting, and prepare a suitable Report of the Proceedings for publication in the bee-periodicals as soon as possible after the close of the meeting. Any member (whether an officer of the Union or not) shall be eligible to these positions.

ARTICLE IV.—BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Officers shall constitute a Board of Directors, which shall determine what course shall be taken by this Union, upon any matter presented to it for action; and cause such extra Assessments to be made upon the members as may become necessary; provided that only one Assessment shall be made in any one fiscal year, without a majority vote of all the members (upon blanks furnished for that purpose), together with a statement showing good reasons for another Assessment.

ARTICLE V.—MEMBERS.

Any person may become a member by paying to the General Manager an Entrance Fee of \$1.00, for which he shall receive a printed receipt, making him a member of the Union, entitled to all its rights and benefits until the 31st day of December, following. The Annual Fee of \$1.00 shall be due on the first day of January in each year, and MUST be paid within six months in order to retain membership in this Union.

ARTICLE VI.—FUNDS.

SEC. 1.—The Funds of this Union shall be used for any purpose in the interests of the pursuit of bee-culture, when approved by the Board of Directors; and to pay the legitimate expenses of the Union.

SEC. 2.—The Salary of the General Manager shall be determined by the Board of Directors, but shall not be more than twenty (20) per cent. of the gross income for each fiscal year.

ARTICLE VII.—AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of all the members; provided that all proposed amendments shall be presented in writing, signed by three members, and sent to the General Manager before the first day of November, so that they may be incorporated into his Annual Report.

In the November Bee-Keepers' Review, Editor Hutchinson remarks as follows about the foregoing Constitution:

"If the New Constitution is adopted, the two societies become one. . . . I see no fault to find with it, and if I saw any I should certainly point it out. I feel hopeful that good will come from the union of these two organizations."

Notes AND Comments.

CONDUCTED BY

Rev. Emerson T. Abbott, St. Joseph, Mo.

Closed-End Frames.—"Closed-end frames, accurately made and held together so as to present a smooth surface to the bees, are easy to handle and have several advantages of their own, of which, perhaps, the most important is, that, in wintering and breeding up in the spring, the heat of the cluster is confined to the comb-spaces which it occupies."—F. L. THOMPSON, in Gleanings.

Is not the heat of the cluster confined to the "comb-space which it occupies" on any kind of a frame? I confess I am unable to see where a closed-end frame has any advantage in this respect. The cluster warms the comb-space which it covers, and no more, let the frame be what it may. Or at least that is the way it seems to me.

Cheap Honey—Practically Not True.—"Why is honey so cheap? Because much of it that is sold is nothing more than molasses."—From an article in Farmers' Review, signed, H. W. Wiley.

The article entitled "Adulteration of Honey," from which this extract is quoted, occupies about a column of the paper, and contains in addition to the above, a number of what seem to me very unwarrantable statements, to say the least. I should be glad to think that there is some mistake about this, and that Prof. Wiley is not the author of the article. I formed a very favorable impression of that gentleman when I met him in Chicago at the World's Fair bee-convention, and I have great respect for his ability, but this does not change the

facts in the case. It is not true that honey is cheap because much that is sold is "nothing more than molasses." Honey is now being offered in Arizona, through one of the prominent bee-papers, for 4½ cents for extracted, and I can buy as pure honey as ever the sun shone on, laid down here in St. Joseph, for 6 cents.

The truth of the matter is, everything is very cheap, and honey, being considered a luxury, has been neglected by the people during these close times, and, for this reason, it has become very cheap.

Neither do I believe that "much of the honey sold is nothing more than molasses," Prof. Wiley to the contrary notwithstanding. I have examined a great many samples of honey in my time, and I have the first one yet to see that would answer to this description. I have found some which was largely adulterated with glucose, put up by unprincipled mixers, but there is not nearly as much of this as some would have us believe.

Prof. Wiley takes special pains in the article referred to, to tell how honey is adulterated, which, instead of resulting in any good to bee-keepers, is only a hint to some unscrupulous person to set up business according to his methods. "The brand, 'American Honey,'" says he, "is now a sign of adulteration." Prof. Evans told the American people, through the Popular Science Monthly, some time ago, that there was very little pure honey found in the market on the other side of the water. So, between the two noted scientists, it would seem there is little show for pure honey any place. Now, I would ask in all candor, what benefit are the bee-keepers to derive from publishing such stuff in the agricultural papers of the country? The Government has done comparatively little to aid apiculture, and it seems to me that it should at least stop injuring it by the misdirected zeal of the official chemist. If it cannot find any better employment for him than the promulgation of such misleading statements, it would better abolish the office altogether. Of course, this is only my individual opinion, and should be taken as such.

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Now it seems to us that here is a splendid chance for any bee-keeper to supply his home demand after his own crop is all sold. Or, why not begin now to create a local honey-trade? Order one 60-pound can first, and start out among your neighbors and friends, and see what you can do. You ought to get at least 15 cents per pound in 5-pound lots, or 50 cents for 3 pounds. Some may be able to do even better than that, though we think that enough ought to be sold at these prices to make a fairly paying business out of it. Give it a good trial. Push it. It may grow into a nice winter's work for you.

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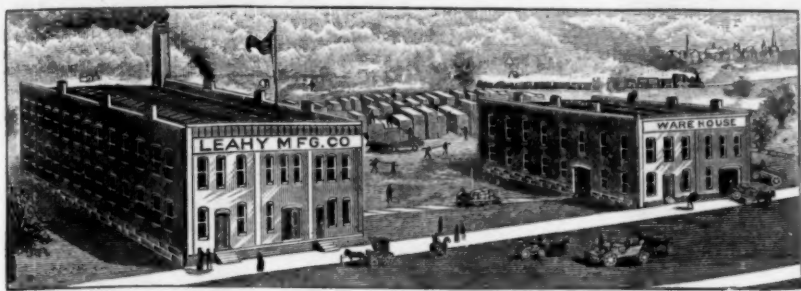
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Leamy Mfg. Co.:—I have received the bill of goods. I must say they are the choicest lot of Hive-Stuff I have ever received from any place. I admire the smoothness of your work, and your close selection of lumber. Yours very truly, O. K. OLMSTEAD, Orleans, Nebr.

Dear Sirs:—The Sections arrived in due time, and are all O. K. so far as examined. They are simply perfection. I can't see how you can furnish such goods at such low prices. I hope you may live long and do well. Yours respectfully, Z. S. WEAVER, Courtney, Tex.

Gents:—I received the "Higginsville Smoker" all O. K. It's a dandy; please find enclosed stamps for another. Yours truly, OTTO ENDERS, Oswegatche, N. Y.

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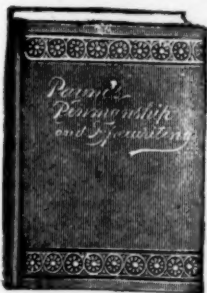
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Question-Box.

In the multitude of counsellors there is safety.—Prov. 11-14.

How Close to Each Other May Hives Safely be Placed?

Query 998.—Having limited yard room, how far from center to center is the closest I can place my colonies of bees with safety?—P. S.

G. M. Doolittle—Four feet.

W. R. Graham—About 6 feet.

C. H. Dibbern—Leave enough room so the bees cannot run from one hive-bottom to another.

P. H. Elwood—I don't know. It depends largely how you work them. If not disturbed much, they can be closer.

Mrs. J. N. Heater—I would not have less than four feet from center to center, and then paint the hives different colors.

W. G. Larrabee—I should say six or eight feet, but I would advise having two or three in a clump, and then a larger space.

Mrs. L. Harrison—I like to place in pairs, as closely as they can be placed. I never had any trouble when they were placed closely in rows.

Prof. A. J. Cook—If of various colors, or marked by trees, etc., as close as they can be and permit you to get among them so as to handle the bees, etc.

Chas. Dadant & Son—You can place them side by side, but should have some conspicuous mark, or different color, by which the bees may recognize their home.

Eugene Secor—They may be placed closely side by side, but in that case I think I would color the fronts of the hives differently, or distinguish them in some manner.

R. L. Taylor—That depends. If there are trees or other landmarks in the apiary, and you face neighboring hives in different directions, you may safely place them as close as you please.

Rev. M. Mahin—You can safely put them as close together as they can be placed, and have room to put on and remove the covers. I have had them that close without any injury in any way.

Rev. E. T. Abbott—Safety to what? There will not be any trouble one time in a hundred, if the hives touch each other in the rows, so far as the bees are concerned, if the rows are four or five feet apart.

J. A. Green—Place your hives in groups of four, two facing east and two west with a space of one foot between. Three feet north or south put another group. Five feet east or west make another row of groups.

G. W. Demaree—You may place your hives as close as you can conveniently work among them. I have a friend bee-keeper, in a town, who worked his hives one above the other for want of room. The notion often advanced that hives located too close together endangers the young queens in their wedding flight, is all theory. The only danger that can arise on that account is the very rare occurrence of two young queens going out at the same time from adjoining

hives. The excited movement of the workers at the entrance of the hive in the interval of the absence of their young queen is a sure guide to her on her return.

J. M. Hambaugh—By alternating different-colored hives, you can keep your bees 4 to 6 feet apart; yet I would prefer a greater distance. In close quarters, bees should have a variety of colors, markings, etc., to guide them to the proper hive.

B. Taylor—In my house-aplary the entrances are two feet apart. This year I tried getting young queens fertilized in these, and succeeded in every case. There is no other objection to placing hives two feet apart, except convenience in handling.

Dr. C. C. Miller—That depends upon surrounding objects as landmarks. With plenty of these, I should say there ought to be no trouble at six feet from center to center. But you can double the number kept on a given space by keeping the hives in pairs.

Dr. J. P. H. Brown—If space is very limited, you might place your hives as close as six inches. In fact, I have seen large apiaries where the hives were placed side by side and piled on top of each other, that were worked successfully and profitably.

J. E. Pond—I have found no difficulty in placing hives 10 to 12 inches apart. A foot of space between hives I deem to be ample, if care is taken. If bees are kept in a "slip-shod" manner, they will give trouble no matter how they are placed on their stands.

Allen Pringle—If you have various landmarks, and paint your hives, like Joseph's coat—many and different colors—you might place them side by side in touch in the rows, and the rows just far enough apart to admit of convenient manipulation. But if you have more room, give it to them.

E. France—By having the hives different colors, they can be placed as close as they can be, without clustering together when they lie out in hot weather. I have seen old box-hives on a bench so close together that the bees hid all the hives in hot days in August. But when cool weather came, and the bees all went in, some of the hives were left without bees. No doubt they had become queenless.

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Bee-Keepers' Guide, or Manual of the Apiary, by Prof. A. J. Cook, of the Michigan Agricultural College.—This book is not only instructive and helpful as a guide in bee-keeping, but is interesting and thoroughly practical and scientific. It contains a full delineation of the anatomy and physiology of bees. 460 pages; bound in cloth and fully illustrated. Price, \$1.00.

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The following clubbing prices include the American Bee Journal one year with each book named. Remember, that only **ONE** book can be taken in each case with the Bee Journal a year at the prices named. If more books are wanted see postpaid prices given with the description of the books on this page. Following is the clubbing-list:

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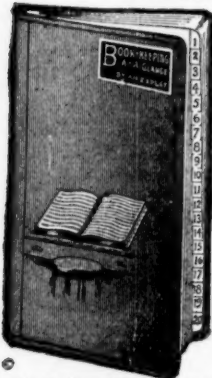
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WHEN ANSWERING THIS ADVERTISEMENT, MENTION THIS JOURNAL.

Convention Notices.

WISCONSIN.—The annual meeting of the Wisconsin State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held Thursday and Friday, Feb. 6 and 7, 1895, in the capitol building at Madison. The program will appear in due time.
Platteville, Wis. N. E. FRANCE, Sec.

PENNSYLVANIA.—The Venango County Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its 3rd annual convention in the City Hall, at Franklin, Pa., Friday, Dec. 27, 1895, beginning at 9 a.m. All persons interested in bee-culture are cordially invited to attend.
O. L. GREENLEE, Sec.
Utica, Pa.

TEXAS.—The Southwest Texas Bee-Keepers' Association meets at Wharton, Tex., at the apiary of W. O. Victor, Dec. 26 and 27, 1895. Everybody is invited and bee-keepers especially. Come, and let's have the largest meeting Texas ever had. Low rates on all railroads.
J. O. GRIMSLEY, Sec.
Beeville, Tex.

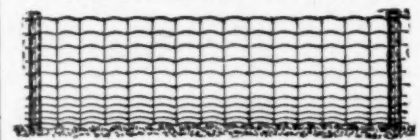
IOWA.—The third annual convention of the Central Iowa Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in the Farmers' Club room at Oskaloosa, Iowa, Dec. 26 and 27, 1895. An interesting program has been arranged. Holiday excursion rates. Good hotel accommodations at \$1.00 a day. Come, and bring questions for the Question-Box. This is the largest convention in the State, and should be well attended.
W. E. BRYAN, Sec.-Treas.
New Sharon, Iowa.

RHODE ISLAND.—Are you interested in bees and honey? Then you are invited to attend a lecture by G. M. Doolittle, of Borodino, N. Y., one of the best-known scientific queen-breeders and honey-producers in the United States. This lecture is given under the auspices of the Bee-Keepers' Educational Society of Rhode Island, before the Rhode Island Horticultural Society, at their room in Tillinghast's Parlors, 283 Westminster St., Providence, Dec. 18, 1895, at 8 o'clock p.m. The object is to advance practical apiculture, and to enlighten the public generally in regard to the production of unadulterated honey.
W. G. GARTSIDE, Sec.
289 Globe St., Providence, R. I.

The Special Meeting of the Illinois State Bee-Keepers' Association will be held in Chicago, at the New Briggs House, northeast corner of Randolph St. and Fifth Ave., on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 9 and 10, 1896—the week of the National Cycle Show—when excursion rates will be given on the certificate plan—for 1 1/2 fare for the round trip. Certificate must be secured at the starting point, or no reduction will be granted on return. Before return ticket is secured, certificate must be signed by the Secretary of the Cycle Exhibition Company, and vised by the joint agent of the railway lines, whose offices will be in the Exhibition Building. Tickets to Chicago may be purchased (and certificate taken), on any day between Jan. 1 and 11, and the return trip commenced on any day between Jan. 4 and 15. Chicago hotel rates are 75 cents each, per night, two in a room; \$1.00 if one in a room. Meals extra—pay for what you order, or go elsewhere for meals. If preferred.
Bradfordton, Ill. JAS. A. STONE, Sec.

Binders for this size of the American Bee Journal we can furnish for 75 cents each, postpaid; or we will club it with the Bee Journal for a year—both for \$1.60. We have a few of the old size (6x9) Binders left, that we will mail for only 40 cents each, to close them out.

Please Send Us the Names of your neighbors who keep bees, and we will send them sample copies of the BEE JOURNAL. Then please call upon them and get them to subscribe with you, and secure some of the premiums we offer.



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Honey & Beeswax Market Quotations.

CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 16.—We never had as good inquiry for honey as this fall, and never sold as much. We have not received as good prices owing to the amount of California stock unloaded on this market, which was sold at a very low price, both comb and extracted. We quote: No. 1 and fancy, 13@15c; amber and dark, 8 1/4@11c. Extracted, 5@7c. Beeswax, 28c.
J. A. L.

BUFAALO, N. Y., Oct. 14.—Honey is in good demand. We quote: Fancy, mostly 16c; choice, 14@15c; buckwheat sells slowly at 10@12c. Extracted very quiet. Will advance liberally upon all choice shipments of honey. Beeswax wanted at 28@30c.
R. & Co.

CHICAGO, ILL., Nov. 7.—Comb honey, if fancy in all ways, sells at 15c., but the bulk of sales of white comb that grades No. 1 is sold at 13c. Amber or yellow brings 9@11c.; dark and brown, 8@10c., according to finish and flavor. There are large offerings of extracted at prices ranging from 4 1/4@7c., according to color, body, flavor and package.
BEESWAX, 28@30c. R. A. B. & Co.

CINCINNATI, O., Nov. 20.—There is a fair demand for comb and extracted honey, with a good supply. Comb honey sells at 12@15c. for best white, in a jobbing way. Extracted brings 4@7c. on arrival.
Beeswax is in good demand at 22@27c. for good to choice yellow.
C. F. M. & S.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Nov. 21.—The demand for comb and extracted honey is improving. We quote: No. 1 white, 1-lbs., 13@14c.; No. 2, 12@13c.; No. 1 amber, 12@13c.; No. 2, 10@11c.; dark, 8@10c. Extracted, white, 8@9c.; amber, 5@5 1/2c.; Southern, dark, 4@4 1/2c. Beeswax, 22@25c.
C. C. C. & Co.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Nov. 8.—Demand for comb honey is very good, particularly fancy white, and is moving out about as fast as it arrives. We quote: Fancy clover, 1-lbs., 15@16c.; white, 13@14c.; fair, 11@12c.; buckwheat, 10@10 1/2c. Extracted, buckwheat, 5@5 1/2c., with supply equal to demand; white clover and basswood, 6@7c., with supply short and demand good; Southern, 5@5 1/2c. per gallon. Beeswax, 27@29c.; extra fancy, 30@31c.
C. I. & B.

ALBANY, N. Y., Nov. 9.—Our honey market is in good shape, although prices, like on most all products, are not high; but receipts are lighter than last year, and there is a good, steady demand, with a real scarcity of white honey. We quote: White clover, 15@16c.; mixed clover, 12@14c.; dark clover, 9@11c. Extracted, white, 6 1/4@7c.; mixed, 5 1/2@6c.; dark, 5@5 1/2c.
H. R. W.

NEW YORK, N. Y., Nov. 22.—We have a good demand for white comb honey, all styles, and it finds ready sale at 14@15c. for fancy, and 12@13c. for second grade. The demand for buckwheat comb is rather limited and has fallen off considerably. The supply is large and the market shows a downward tendency. We quote: In paper boxes and glassed, 10c.; unglazed, 9@9 1/2c. Extracted is not moving very fast and the supply is plenty, especially from California. We quote: White clover and basswood, 6c.; California, 5@5 1/2c.; Southern, 5@5 1/2c. per gallon. No demand as yet for extracted buckwheat. Beeswax in good demand and firm at 29@30c.
H. B. & S.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., Oct. 23.—Honey is selling freely, and good, choice comb sells on arrival. Pure Western extracted white clover sells very quickly and is in big demand. We quote: Fancy white clover, 16c.; choice, 14c.; dark, 11c. Extracted, 5 1/4@6 1/4c.; pure white clover, 8@9c. Beeswax will not, in our judgment, advance much more, as it did last year, large quantities having been laid up at low prices. It sells fairly well at 26c. on arrival.
W. A. S.

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Mention the American Bee Journal.

General Items.

Had a Good Season.

We have had a good season here. Our bees stored plenty of honey, and were all in good condition for winter.

E. B. HUFFMAN.

Homer, Minn., Dec. 2.

Too Dry for the Flowers.

You want to know how my bees are doing? Not very well. May be they will get through without feeding, but I will have to feed in the spring, I am well satisfied. I had 300 pounds of basswood honey; that was all the bloom that yielded any surplus. It has been so dry that there were no flowers to do the bees any good. I have 30 colonies, and had no swarms for two years. If it stays dry much longer, they will forget how to swarm.

Viola, Iowa, Dec. 2.

D. C. WILSON.

A Successful Bee-Hunter.

My experience this year is easily told. For five weeks of hunting bees I have 10 colonies in fair condition. I fed a good part of the honey I took from the trees, but have 150 pounds left.

I am very fond of honey. I love my bees, and also the Bee Journal. Why shouldn't I, when I get enough information from each number to more than repay my subscription?

I am very much interested in the discussion of the size of the brood-chamber. I think the large-hive people have decidedly the best of it, and I will very likely adopt a larger hive next summer. My bees are at present in 8-frame Simplicity hives.

PLUS ULTRA.

Bakersfield, Calif., Nov. 23.

Bees Did Well—Prickly Pear.

The first frost came here on Nov. 19. It found our bees in fine condition. They have done well throughout southwestern Texas, and we have some honey yet to spare. All kinds of stock look well—in fact, are fat. Our forage crops are unusually good. This is strictly a bee-country; we seldom ever find any one living on our streams but what has bees. We look for a good honey-flow the coming year, as we have now a good season in the ground.

I do not now remember ever seeing bees working on prickly pear blossom, but they work on the apples when the honey-flow is poor. The honey is nearly the color of blood. Prickly pear is all over this part of the country. I see this was asked about on page 753.

A. W. LAMKIN.

Batesville, Tex., Nov. 25.

Peculiar Season—Honey-Dew.

The season of 1895 was a very peculiar one here, but it was a pretty fair one, after all. I did not get much white honey, but the most of the white honey I did get was from the soft maples. I never saw my bees gather so much honey from the maples as they did last spring. But when the clover came into bloom, it was a very cool, windy time, and it was very dry. When the basswood bloomed I got only three days, and the rest of the time the wind blew very hard, so I did not get much white honey.



Disease is an effect, not a cause. Its origin is within; its manifestations without. Hence, to cure the disease the cause must be removed, and in no other way can a cure ever be effected. Warner's SAFE Cure is established on just this principle. It realizes that

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About Aug. 1 I noticed that the bees were getting some honey, and they all went mostly one way, towards a mountain, so I took pains enough to go up on the mountain to see what they were getting so much honey from, and I found the mountain covered with red oak, and the leaves were covered with the bees, and with small drops that looked like molasses. When I saw what the bees were doing, I went back and took off all of the sections that were filled, and put on empty ones, to give them room to hold it. I received about 400 pounds of what I called "honey-dew." It was gathered in such a large amount that I had colonies that stored 9 pounds in one day, by the scales.

I think I have a very good market here for my honey. I sold all of it for 20 and 25 cents per pound. I have 12 colonies now, and they are all in chaff hives on the summer stands. I prepared them for winter about the middle of October, and I think they are in fine condition for winter.

A. H. CHESLEY.

Jackson, N. H., Nov. 19.

Poultry.—Any one wishing to become proficient in the handling of poultry, should send 10 cents, in stamps, to Des Moines Incubator Co., Box 78, Des Moines, Iowa, for their book of Practical Poultry-Keeping.



Grinds more grain to any degree of fineness than any other mill. Grinds ear-corn, oats, etc., fine enough for any purpose. Warranted not to choke. We warrant the Peerless to be THE BEST AND CHEAPEST MILL ON EARTH. Write us at once for prices and agency. There is money in this mill. Made only by the JOLIET STROWBRIDGE CO., JOLIET, ILL. Jobbers and Manufacturers of Farm Machinery, Carriages, Wagons, Windmills, Bicycles, Harness, etc. Prices lowest. Quality best.

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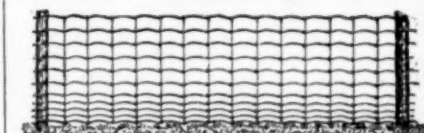
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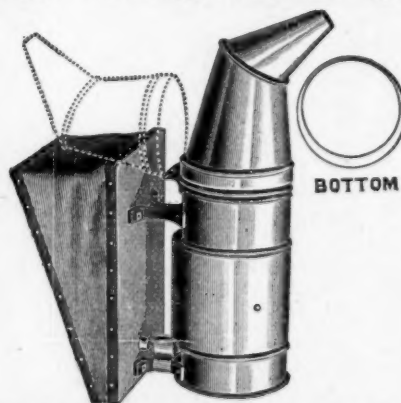
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